

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus that can  
install multiple control programs capable of performing  
processing corresponding to a peripheral device and can  
5 be connected to the peripheral device, comprising:

recognition means for recognizing information  
indicating the model of said peripheral device;

management means for managing information  
indicating the versions of multiple control programs  
10 that correspond to the model indicated in the  
information recognized by said recognition means; and

selection means for selecting the newest version  
of control program from the versions of control program  
managed by said management means.

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2. The information processing apparatus according  
to Claim 1, wherein said control program is capable of  
performing image processing and control processing that  
correspond to a peripheral device having a particular  
20 function or multiple peripheral devices having  
different functions.

3. The information processing apparatus according  
to Claim 1, wherein said control program comprises  
25 notification means for notifying information indicating  
peripheral device models it supports and information  
indicating its version in response to a query by said

management means.

4. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said management means manages as  
5 table data information indicating peripheral device models supported by the control programs, information indicating the versions of the control programs, and identification information for the control programs.

10 5. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said management means obtains information indicating peripheral device models supported by said control programs in response to a query by a higher control module, and returns  
15 information indicating at least one or more peripheral device models supported by said control programs to the higher control program as information indicating peripheral devices supported by the control programs.

20 6. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting a control program selected by said selection means such that the control program can control a corresponding peripheral device.

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7. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising control means for

controlling a control program that is not selected by said selection means such that activation of the control program is inhibited.

5           8. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

          identification means for identifying a first control program that controls a peripheral device not based on a selection result of said selection and a  
10 second control program that controls a peripheral device based on a result of said selection means; and  
          activation control means for performing control such that said first program is activated when said identification means recognizes that said first control  
15 program exists.

          9. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said selection means recognizes that a control program can control a peripheral device  
20 among peripheral devices supported by the control program when a database file exists that stores control conditions and control variables for the peripheral device.

25           10. A control method for controlling an information processing apparatus that can install multiple control programs capable of performing image

processing and control processing corresponding to functions of peripheral devices and can provide printing data to peripheral devices connected to it, comprising:

- 5           a recognition step of recognizing information indicating the models of said peripheral devices;
- a management step of managing information indicating the versions of multiple control programs corresponding to the models indicated in the
- 10   information recognized in said recognition step; and
- a selection step of selecting the newest version of control program among versions of control program managed by said management step.

- 15           11. The control method according to Claim 10, wherein said control program is capable of performing image processing and control processing corresponding to a peripheral device having a particular function or multiple peripheral devices having different functions.

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- 12. The control method according to Claim 10, wherein said control program further comprises a notification step of notifying information indicating peripheral device models it supports and information
- 25   indicating its version in response to a query in said management step.

13. The control method according to Claim 10,  
wherein in said management step, information indicating  
peripheral device models supported by the control  
programs, information indicating the versions of the  
5 control programs, and identification information for  
the control programs are managed as table data.

14. The control method according to Claim 10,  
wherein said management step obtains information  
10 indicating peripheral device models supported by said  
control programs in response to a query by a higher  
control module, and returns information indicating at  
least one or more peripheral device models supported by  
said control programs to the higher control program as  
15 information indicating peripheral devices supported by  
the control programs.

15. The control method according to Claim 10,  
further comprising a setting step of setting a control  
20 program selected in said selection step such that the  
control program can control a corresponding peripheral  
device.

16. The control method according to Claim 13,  
25 further comprising a control step of controlling a  
control program that is not selected in said selection  
step such that activation of the control program is

inhibited.

17. The control method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

5        an identification step of identifying a first control program that controls a peripheral device not based on a selection result in said selection and a second control program that controls a peripheral device based on a result in said selection means; and  
10        an activation control step of performing control such that said first program is activated when said identification step recognizes that said first control program exists.

15        18. The control method according to Claim 15, wherein said selection step recognizes that said control step can control a peripheral device among peripheral devices supported by said control step when a database file that stores control conditions and  
20        control variables for the peripheral device exists.

19. A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon an executable program that can be executed in an information processing apparatus that can install  
25        multiple control programs capable of performing image processing and control processing corresponding to functions of peripheral devices and can provide

printing data to peripheral devices connected to it,  
said storage medium storing an executable program for  
causing said information processing apparatus to  
execute:

- 5           a recognition step of recognizing information  
indicating the models of said peripheral devices;  
            a management step of managing information  
indicating the versions of multiple control programs  
corresponding to the models indicated in the  
10 information recognized in said recognition step; and  
            a selection step of selecting the newest version  
of control program among the versions of control  
program managed in said management step.

- 15           20. A management method for managing device  
drivers in an information processing apparatus  
connectable to a peripheral device, comprising:  
            an obtaining step of obtaining version  
information for device drivers in the information  
20 processing apparatus and information on peripheral  
devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;  
            a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary  
device drivers among possibly multiple versions of  
device drivers that reside in the storage device of the  
25 information processing apparatus and correspond to a  
particular peripheral device, using the version  
information for the device drivers and information on

peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers  
obtained in said obtaining step; and

a deletion control step of controlling deletion  
of device drivers that have been recognized as  
5 unnecessary by said recognition means.

21. The management method according to Claim 20,  
wherein said recognition step comprises an  
identification procedure for identifying a peripheral  
10 device and a determination procedure for determining  
that the newest version of device driver is not  
unnecessary among device drivers capable of controlling  
the peripheral device identified in said identification  
procedure, and repeats processing in said determination  
15 procedure for device drivers that support the  
peripheral device identified in said identification  
procedure.

22. The management method according to Claim 21,  
20 wherein in said recognition step, information on  
peripheral devices and device drivers is managed as  
table data and unnecessary device drivers are  
determined from the table data.

25 23. The management method according to Claim 20,  
wherein after newly adding a device driver to the  
information processing apparatus, said obtaining step,



said recognition step, and said deletion step are executed.

24. An information processing apparatus that can  
5 be connected to a peripheral device and can manage device drivers, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining version information for device drivers in the information processing apparatus and information on peripheral devices that  
10 can be controlled by the device drivers;

recognition means for recognizing unnecessary device drivers among possibly multiple versions of device drivers that reside in the storage device of the information processing apparatus and correspond to a  
15 particular peripheral device, using the version information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained by said obtaining means; and

deletion control means for controlling deletion  
20 of device drivers that have been recognized as unnecessary by said recognition means.

25. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said recognition means  
25 recognizes the newest version of device driver as not unnecessary among device drivers that can control a particular peripheral device.

26. The information processing apparatus  
according to Claim 25, wherein in said recognition step,  
information on peripheral devices and device drivers is  
managed as table data and unnecessary device drivers  
5 are determined from the table data.

27. The information processing apparatus  
according to Claim 27, wherein after newly adding a  
device driver to the information processing apparatus,  
10 said obtaining means, said recognition means, and said  
deletion means are run.

28. A computer-readable storage medium storing a  
control program to be executed that can manage device  
15 drivers in an information processing apparatus  
connectable to a peripheral device, said medium storing  
a control program causing the information processing  
apparatus to execute:

an obtaining step of obtaining version  
20 information for device drivers in the information  
processing apparatus and information on peripheral  
devices that can be controlled by the device drivers;

a recognition step of recognizing unnecessary  
device drivers among possibly multiple versions of  
25 device drivers that reside in the storage device of the  
information processing apparatus and correspond to a  
particular peripheral device, using the version

information for the device drivers and information on peripheral devices controllable by the device drivers obtained in said obtaining step; and

5       a deletion control step of controlling deletion  
of device drivers that have been recognized as  
unnecessary by said recognition means.